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British Campaign for the Defence of Political Prisoners and Human Rights in Indonesia

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JOINT DECLARATION

EEC ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST ARGENTINA IS HYPOCRITICAL ARMS SALES TO INDONESIA HAVE NEVER BEEN STOPPED

British, Dutch, Indonesian, Moluccan and Papuan organisations issued a Joint Declaration on 20th April 1982 the text of which reads as follows:

On 10th April, 1982, the EEC governments, responding with great speed to a request from the British government, agreed to stop all shipments of military equipment to Argentina because of its invasion of the Falkland Islands.

EEC countries, in particular Britain, the Netherlands, West Germany, France and Belgium, also supply large quantities of military equipment to Indonesia including Hawk aircraft, submarines, warships and electronic equipment.

In December 1975, Indonesia invaded East Timor. It has waged a ruthless war against the Timorese people since then, resulting in the death of at least 200,000 people, nearly a third of the population of East Timor. Indonesia is in illegal occupation of East Timor and rules there by means of armed terror and repression. Yet in all that time, not a single EEC government has responded to pressure to stop the supply of military equipment to Indonesia.

As organisations which campaign in West Europe to expose Indonesia's brutal aggression against East Timor and to publicise the immense sufferings inflicted on the Timorese people as a result of the gross and persistent denial of their basic human rights, we are deeply shocked at the hypocrisy of EEC governments. We call upon all those concerned about the tragic fate of the Timorese people to join us in our efforts to expose this hypocrisy and to intensify the demand for an immediate ban on all military supplies to Indonesia from EEC countries because of its illegal invasion and occupation of East Timor.

This Joint Declaration is issued by:

Dutch Indonesia Committee
Indonesian Movement for Basic Human Rights and Democracy
Pattimura Movement (Moluccan)
20 May Youth Group (Moluccan)
New Guinea Work Group (West Papuan)
TAPOL, British Campaign for the Defence of Political Prisoners and Human Rights in Indonesia
British Campaign for an Independent East Timor.

NB: Please help publicise this Declaration in the press and in your own journal or publications.